

REMARKS

Claims 1-53 are now pending in the application. Claims 52 and 53 are newly added. Support for the foregoing amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings, and claims as originally filed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

In the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, the Examiner noted that Applicants had not addressed the rejections of claims 18, 35, 42, and their dependent claims. Applicants by this response have now amended independent claims 18, 35, and 42 in accordance with the arguments previously made in connection with claim 1. Applicants therefore submit that these newly amended claims now address the issues raised by the Examiner and are allowable over the art of record.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 50 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 50 and 51 have been amended to recite "home appliances" in place of the objected-to language. The objected-to language of claim 1 has been deleted. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

Claims 1-4, 6-48, 50 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Blackett et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,944,555).

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blackett et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,944,555) in view of Valadarsky et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0111755).

Claim 49 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blackett et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,944,555) in view of Dage et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,640,890).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In applicants' system, the node element itself includes a proxy having a universal format interface that makes available a local control interface of a first local load device available and that allows remote control of the first local load device, through the universal format interface, using a universal format different from a local control protocol of the first load device. Thus, applicants' system will support peer-to-peer operation where the self-contained proxy handles the universal formatting requirements.

In contrast, the Blackett et al system is designed to work with a separate proxy server. See Blackett's discussion of the proxy server at col. 23, lines 46-55. Blackett does not teach or suggest inclusion of the proxy within the node element itself. Valadarsky and Dage are similarly silent on this issue.

Accordingly, in order to more fully distinguish applicants' invention in this regard, independent claims 1, 18, 35 and 42 have been amended to recite the applicants' inclusion of a proxy in the node element. New dependent claims 52 and 53 have been added to provide additional details of the proxy in the node element. It is respectfully

submitted that the claims now fully distinguished applicants' invention from the cited references.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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